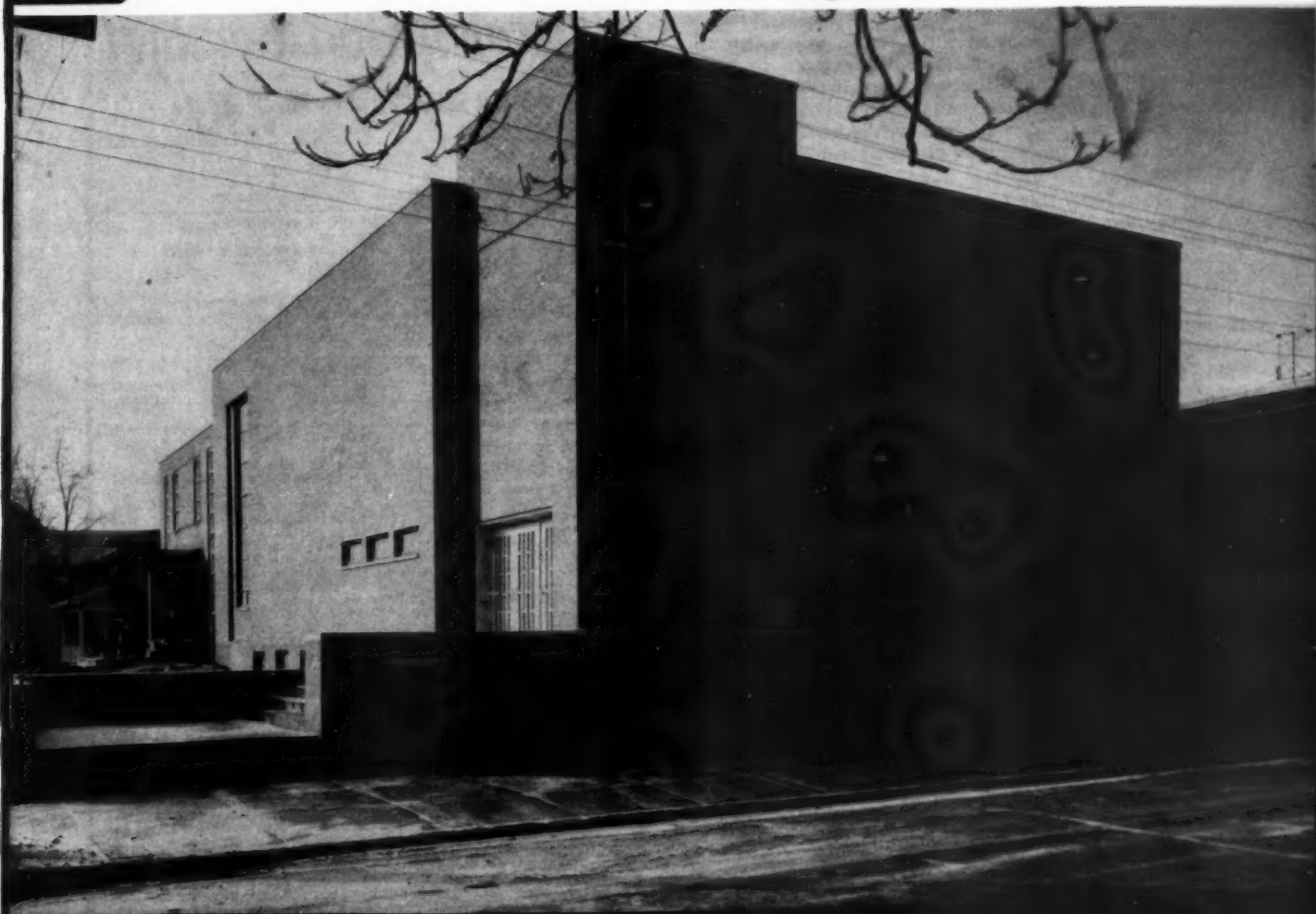


Vol. 46—No. 2

March 12, 1955

Church of God  
**Evangel**



Church of God, Middletown, Ohio

About eight years after he had given his heart to God, a blacksmith was approached by an intelligent unbeliever with the question: "Why is it you have so much trouble? I have been watching you. Since you joined the church and began to 'walk square' and seem to love everybody, you have twice as many trials and accidents as you had before. I thought that when a man gave himself to God his troubles were over. Isn't that what the parson tells us?"

With a thoughtful but glowing face, the blacksmith replied, "Do you see this piece of steel? It is for the springs of a carriage. But it needs to be 'tempered.' In order to do this, I heat it red-hot, and then cool it with water. If I find it will take a 'temper,' I heat it again; then I hammer it and bend it and shape it so that it will be suitable for the carriage. Often I find the steel too brittle, and it cannot be used. If so, I throw it on the scrap pile. Those scraps are worth less than one cent a pound, but this carriage spring is valuable."

He paused, and his listener nodded. The blacksmith continued, "God saves us for something more than to have a good time. That's the way I see it. We have the good time all right, for the smile of God means heaven. But He wants us for service, just as I want this piece of steel. And He puts the 'temper' of Christ in us by testings and trials."

"Ever since I saw this I have been saying to Him, 'Test me in any way you choose, Lord, only don't throw me on the scrap pile.'—*The Moody Bible Institute.*



To be in a storm of distress and sorely tempted and tried in manifold ways and yet not to advertise it; but tell it all to God in secret prayer, and to keep a calm, peaceful spirit and to walk calmly before our fellows and give them the sunshine, even when the heart is bleeding and the mind is perplexed with manifold trials—this is proof of a truly humble, loving heart.—*G. D. Watson, God's Revivalist and Bible Advocate.*



## NOTICES

We are now having services in Kenosha, Wisconsin. If anyone having friends or relatives living in or near Kenosha will notify Sister Evelyn Zingmark, Box 35, Zion, Illinois, she will be happy to visit them or give full details as to the location of the place of worship.—*Estel D. Moore, State Overseer of Wisconsin.*

— — —

Mrs. Frances E. Baker, General Delivery, Perry, Florida, is available for evangelistic work anywhere the Lord leads.

— — —

Woodrow Morgan, 1770 Carolina Street, Cleveland, Tennessee, is now ready to engage in full-time evangelistic work.

— — —

Anyone having friends or relatives stationed at Patrick Air Base, Cocoa, Florida, or working at the Missile Base, Cape Canaveral, please contact the Reverend W. L. Kerce, 919 West Peachtree Street, Cocoa, Florida. He will be glad to contact them.

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## COVER PICTURE

The beautiful modern church building on this week's cover is the Church of God on Clayton Avenue in Middletown, Ohio. The pastor is D. A. Biggs, who is to be complimented for the beautiful structure and the outstanding work being done under his leadership in the Ohio city. Turn to page 13 for a report concerning the building.

# Church of God Evangel

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## DECLARATION OF FAITH

## WE BELIEVE

1. In the verbal inspiration of the Bible.
2. In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
3. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary. That Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead; that He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor.
4. That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and that repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins.
5. That justification, regeneration, and the new birth are wrought by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ.
6. In sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ; through the Word, and by the Holy Ghost.
7. Holiness to be God's standard of living for His people.
8. In the baptism of the Holy Ghost subsequent to a clean heart.
9. In speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost.
10. In water baptism by immersion, and all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
11. Divine healing is provided for all in the atonement.
12. In the Lord's Supper and washing of the saints' feet.
13. In the premillennial second coming of Jesus. First, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air. Second, to reign on the earth a thousand years.
14. In the bodily resurrection; eternal life for the righteous and eternal punishment for the wicked.

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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One of life's most  
persistent questions is—

# Is It Worth It?



By W. D. POLEN  
Laurel, Mississippi

**H**AVE YOU EVER ASKED yourself the question: "Is it worth it?" Is my life for Christ with all the persecutions, all the self-denials, all the heartaches and discouragements in my journey through this life while bound for the Promised Land worth it? If you have found that your life with Christ is full of glory, peaceful, and good, you just cannot explain how wonderful your fellowship with the Lord really is. Let me tell you that God has a prize jewel in your consecration for the Master. May God continue to grant you His love and grace to shine for Him.

If you are just about to give up all hope, before you go any farther and throw in the towel and say, "It's just no use going on," sit down with me for a few moments. Let's talk it all over. I appreciate this opportunity to talk with you. The Lord Jesus, who knows all things and is everywhere present with His wonderful working power, is right here with a peace which passeth all understanding.

In Paul's writings to the church of God at Corinth, he said, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; (I) beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succored (aided) thee. . . . behold, now is the day of salvation. Giving no offense in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed; But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in watchings, in fastings; By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned (unmeasured), By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, By honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth in Christ. And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which

we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. And our hope of you is steadfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation.

"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. But as is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him."

**AT THE CLOSE** of Paul's life, he wrote to Timothy, "Watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

When the way gets rough with me, I like to think of Jesus, who was tempted in all ways as I am; yet, He did not sin, neither did He give up even when He cried out in His darkest hour, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Yes, Jesus has said, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." Isn't it wonderful to feel daily His presence as we travel this pilgrim way to glory? Aren't all our trials, disappointments, heartaches, and sufferings worth bearing a little while longer so that we may live with Jesus forever? There is a rest for the children of God.

Continue on in His love and grace. Lift up your hands and praise Him for caring for you this far. Lift your hands, your head—smile—laugh—rejoice, for your redemption is drawing nearer day by day. Continue to pray; continue to study His precious Word; continue to be a good soldier of the cross, for "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

Here are a few words of admonition to you if you are not ready to meet God. Your life of sin—is it worth all the time you spend at it? No, a sinful life is not. The Word of God says, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

(Continued on page 10)





## *“—But the Greatest of These Is Love”*

By MRS. F. W. GOFF

**T**HERE ARE MANY LOVE STORIES in the Bible—the tender love of Isaac and Rebekah, the poignant romance of Jacob and Rachel, and the unwise love of Samson for Delilah. Jonathan's love for his friend David was so strong that he was willing to risk the wrath of his father, King Saul, to protect him. Many and varied are the stories found in God's Word. One of the most touching stories is the love of a young Moabitish maid for her mother-in-law. Ruth's love for Naomi was such that she willingly left her kindred and the purple hills of Moab to—but wait—let us go back to the beginning of the story.

Elimelech, a wealthy Hebrew, lived in Bethlehem with his beloved wife Naomi and their two sons, Mahlon and Chilion. Under ordinary circumstances, Bethlehem was a fruitful land of grapes, figs, pomegranates, and wheat and barley fields. But it came to pass in those days that there was a famine in the land. The vineyards were barren, and the grain fields lay in waste. Bread, which had been plentiful, became scarce. It was a trying time for the household of Elimelech. Beyond a doubt, they loved their homeland and entertained no idea of leaving it, but the situation became grave, and they finally decided to go to the land of Moab for subsistence. Somehow their faith grew dim, and they began to walk by sight.

Their sojourn in the land of Moab was filled with pathos, for soon Elimelech died and Naomi and her two sons were left alone in a strange land. She felt keenly the loss of her companion and her life was lonely. Their

home, which was once filled with happiness and boyish laughter, became strangely quiet. Growing into manhood, the boys soon found wives among the women of Moab. Mahlon married Ruth and Chilion married Orpah.

By nature, Naomi was amiable, and her sincere piety and sweetness soon won the love and respect of her daughters-in-law. From her lips, they heard many stories of her youth in her homeland with its lovely green hillsides, the gardens, and the plains where the wheat and barley once had grown plentifully. They heard many stories of the true God, Jehovah, for Naomi's people were deeply religious. Time and again, the daughters-in-law caught a wistful look in her eyes, and they knew that in her heart she deeply yearned for her native land.

As the years passed, it seemed that Naomi was prospering, but disaster struck again—her two sons died. She became desolate. First, her husband died, and then her sons. Her sorrow was almost more than she could bear, and she often thought of home. One day the glad tidings came that the Lord had visited His people by giving them bread. A small flame of faith began to burn in Naomi's heart, and she resolved to return to Bethlehem. Her ties in Moab were broken, and she turned her face homeward.

Her daughters-in-law arose and went with her on the way of return to the land of Judah. They journeyed for a time—then Naomi, with a heart of compassion, turned to Orpah and Ruth. She well knew the comfort she would reap if they continued with her. She had learned to love them as her own daughters, but she did not want them oppressed by her sorrow. She bade them, “Go, return each to her mother's house: the Lord deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me.” Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. The parting was heart-rending, and they said to her, “Surely we will return with thee unto thy people.” In all fairness Naomi tried to dissuade them, and finally, Orpah, kissing her, turned back, but Ruth cleaved to her. Such love has seldom been surpassed.

This daughter of Moab would not be dissuaded, though Naomi again said, “Return thou after thy sister-in-law.” Her choice was through ardent love. She severed all ties with Moab and asked for no consideration. With a heart of perfect loyalty, she proclaimed, “Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if aught but death part thee and me.”

Naomi, seeing her steadfastness, recognized the depth of Ruth's love, and they journeyed together to Bethlehem.

Wise indeed are the words of Origen: “Blessed is Ruth, who so clave unto her aged mother-in-law that she would not leave her unto death. For this reason, Scripture indeed has justly extolled her, but God has beautified her forever. But He will judge, and in the resurrection condemn all those wicked and ungodly daughters-in-law who deal out abuse and wrong to their parents-in-law, unmindful of the fact that they gave life and sustenance to their husbands . . . If, therefore, thou lovest thy husband, O wife, then love them also who gave him being, and thus brought up a son for themselves and a husband for thee. Seek not to divide the son from his father or mother, lest thou fall into the condemnation of the Lord in the day of awful inquest and judgment.”

# - GOD'S MYSTERY -

By MRS. JAMES F. THAMES

*The intimacy of Christ and His sheep was best revealed when He said, "Unto you is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God."*

**M**YSTERY MEANS "something secret, hidden, not known to all." The world obtains many mysteries today, and the Word of God does, also. Jesus said in Luke 8:10a, "Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God." Hallelujah! We can know God's mysteries. Colossians 1:26 says, "Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints." Ephesians 1:9, "Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself." Romans 16:25, 26, "Now to him that is of power to establish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, but now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandments of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith." This mystery is made known only by believing, obeying, and accepting the Scripture.

It has always been God's plan to use humanity to fulfill His plans. Ephesians 5:22, 23 uses the sacred devotion of man and wife to reveal the importance and sacredness of our duty to the Church. Since the Church is important, it will pay us to prayerfully search God's Word for the divine revelation of its mystery. Ephesians 5:32 says, "This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." The Church, the body of Christ, is known as His waiting bride, according to Matthew 25:6 and Revelation 19:7. Colossians 1:18a, "And he is the head of the body, the church." Ephesians 1:22, 23, "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." Since it is His body and



waiting bride, why wouldn't He have the right to name it? To consider a portion of Romans 16:26 which says, "But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets," we shall have to go back to the Old Testament and see what the prophets said about this subject.

Deuteronomy 12:5, "But unto the place which the Lord your God shall choose . . . to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek." Deuteronomy 26:2, "That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the Lord thy God giveth thee, and shalt put it in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which the Lord thy God shall choose to place his name there." Now, who chose the name and place?

The name Church of God is not just some man's choice, but God's Spirit moved and revealed it to be recorded in His Holy Word. 2 Peter 1:21, "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." Although God's

Word teaches that there was a house called by His name as far back as King Solomon's day, some waste time fussing over the revelation of the name. 1 Kings 8:29, 43, "That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place. Hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for: that all people of the earth may know thy name, to fear thee, as do thy people Israel; and that they may know that this house, which I have builded, is called by thy name."

Who has the right to say it is their revelation? "God is not the author of confusion," 1 Corinthians 14:33. Anything that is contrary to the Word of God is confusion and deceitful.

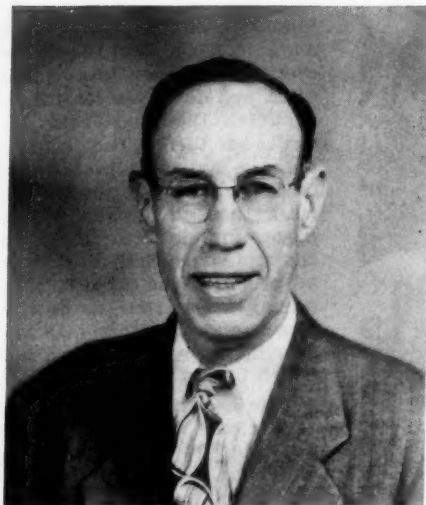
**WITH HIS HANDS** lifted toward heaven, King Solomon offered this prayer while kneeling before an altar. It is a pity that the altar has become so old-fashioned for many and they have exalted themselves so high that they no longer kneel and pray. We do not have to leave holiness movements to find such spirits existing. 2 Chronicles 7:14 says, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." If there were wicked people called by His name then, there is a possibility of the same today, but that doesn't keep the honest-hearted from accepting the Word and being ready. Praise God! In Proverbs 6:16-19 read of the six things that God hates.

When I see and hear Bible scholars—persons who have all the qualifica-

(Continued on page 11)

# Man and missions

From the Foreign Mission Executive Secretary's Desk, 1680 Montgomery Avenue, Cleveland, Tennessee—PAUL H. WALKER.



## Old Ministers Don't Die — They Just Fade Away

By J. H. INGRAM

### BULLETIN

Alejandro Portugal, Overseer, has just notified the Missions Department that the church in Oaxaca, Mexico, has been dynamited and destroyed by religious enemies. A number of the church brethren have been injured. Special prayer is requested for them.

WHEN GENERAL Douglas MacArthur, Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations Forces in Japan and Korea, was relieved of his command against his will, he is said to have met the challenge with these words: "Old soldiers don't die; they just fade away." The same thing may be said of old ministers who have been superannuated.

After thirty-three years of service, at my request, I have been retired at the age of 61 from active, full-time ministry in the Church of God. This does not mean that one necessarily has to pass from the scene of action the moment he steps down from the official ministry and has to go into oblivion beneath a spiritual cloud. Before I got saved, theaters were a great attraction to me, and if the so-called best shows failed to come my way, I traveled to other towns in order to see them. When an interesting play came to a close, I was reluctant to leave, but when the curtains were drawn, the floodlights were switched off, and the actors had disappeared from the stage, everyone went his own way, and I, also, continued on my way, feeling as though I were under a cloud. It is not so now walking in the true Light, "which lighteth every man that cometh into the world," John 1:9.

For my part, it was very sad, indeed, when I preached my farewell sermon at the Church of God in East Los Angeles, California, on August 29, 1954. The time had arrived for me to step down and out, bringing to a close thirty-three years of the active ministry. For my theme I used these words: "Old soldiers (ministers) don't die; they just fade away."

When my message was finished, two of the brethren, operating from a concealed position, closed the big green velvet curtains and switched off the bright lights on the platform, leaving a small blue-white light shining in my face as the drapes were slowly drawn together. This meant a separation once and for all time, as far as my active ministry was concerned. It was hard for me to face the music, but when the orchestra began to play and the congregation joined in singing softly, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again," I stepped from behind the curtains and handed the keys of the church to our clerk, Brother Albert I. Farnell, as the members and friends marched around to tell me goodbye. I, for one, do not mean to "fade" as fast as the devil would like for me to, and with this thought in mind, it was easier for me to part with our dear people for whom I had served as pastor for the last four years.

My reason for retiring from the official ministry so soon after having reached the voluntary retirement age was in order that I might be able to travel abroad some more among our fine folk I met during the time of my journeying in the capacity of Field Representative and Foreign Service Pastor. Since I left my home in California two months ago, I have seen a little of twenty countries, increasing the number of foreign lands visited to 105.

(Continued on page 10)



Man's alternatives are

# DELIVERANCE OR DESTRUCTION

By FRANCES E. BAKER

Evangelist

*Text: Esther 8:6, "For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?"*

**I**N THE SCRIPTURE preceding our text, Esther the queen was chosen as an instrument of deliverance for her people. Mordecai, her uncle, was her instructor, so to speak. He faithfully carried out his part. Mordecai challenged Esther to fulfill her mission as an instrument of God for the deliverance of the Jews. He said to her, "Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Esther 4:13, 14.

My dear Christian friends, you and I are solemnly charged with the same challenging message today. We are responsible for the lost around us. Those whom God has called to preach the glorious gospel of Jesus to a lost world are chosen as instruments of deliverance in the hands of the Holy Ghost. Not everyone has a special charge given him to be used as a special instrument of God, but, dear ones, He does have chosen vessels to be used as instruments of deliverance in His hands. Somebody might ask, "If I don't have a special charge as a chosen instrument of deliverance, what is the part I am to carry or to hold?" If God hasn't given you a special or specific calling for service to render in His kingdom work, there is one thing certain and sure—you do have a job to do! Don't think within yourselves just because you are saved, sanctified, or baptized with the Holy Ghost that you are not charged with some kind of responsibility in the business of soul-winning and delivering bound souls for God. Yes, you are solemnly charged with a responsibility to God and souls. "What is it?" you ask. It is wholehearted cooperation in prayer and fasting, as well as faithfully witnessing to the lost, with and for those whom God has given the special calling or anointing of deliverance (read Esther 4:15-17). You cannot shirk your duty and expect to escape the grave responsibility that God has given you.

Does cooperation bring deliverance? Well, let's see. Notice again verses 15 through 17. Esther had to call on her people for help, for a chosen vessel of deliverance must



have wholehearted cooperation of God's people. Esther asked her people to fast and pray with her and for her. It took fasting, praying, and cooperating together to bring about the deliverance of the Jews, God's chosen people. It takes fasting, praying, and wholehearted co-operating on the part of God's people to get the job done in our day. Church of God people, great is our challenge. There are souls all around us who are bound by sin or by afflictions. It is our Father's will that these precious souls be delivered.

"Delivered by whom?" you ask. God has called us to be ministers and He has ordained us as instruments of deliverance for souls in sin.

What is the destruction facing humanity today? The wrath of God is turned against every sinner. (See Joel 2:11.) We, as laborers in the vineyard of Jesus, are charged with the great responsibility of carrying the glorious gospel of deliverance to those bound in sin and afflictions. Just suppose Queen Esther, whom God had chosen as an instrument of deliverance, had shifted her personal responsibility to someone else. Suppose she had done as so many called in the service of the Lord do today. Suppose she had said, "I just can't do that big, dangerous job; as little as I am, it is too much for me."

Esther did not do this. She asked only one thing of her people—their cooperation in fasting and praying for her three days. Esther's maidens humbled themselves before God with wholehearted consecration and prayer for her as she took up the grave, dangerous task of going in before the king to ask the deliverance of her people from the wrath of their enemy who was seeking to destroy their very lives.

My friends, the enemy of our souls, the old devil or Satan, has devised a worse and more subtle destruction for mankind than just their natural lives. His device is the destruction of the spiritual man, the soul, by enticement to sin against God. That's exactly why God's wrath is against the sinner today. It is simply because the sinner has been beguiled by Satan, and God cannot look on sin with the least degree of allowance. He just will not allow sin around His kingdom. Therefore, the sinner must be redeemed or delivered from the yoke and bond-

(Continued on page 10)

## *The General Secretary-Treasurer of the Church of God analyzes the call, the vocation the burden, and the life of*

**W**HEREOF I WAS MADE a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power," Ephesians 3:7. This is not only the testimony of our beloved Brother Paul to the church at Ephesus, but also it is the testimony of every God-made minister. "Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God," so Paul testified to the saints at Colosse as he exhorted them to be united together in love, having a fuller understanding of the spiritual mysteries of the Father and of Christ. He warned against false doctrine and urged steadfast faith in Christ.

The minister is a herald of hope. "If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister," Colossians 1:23. Paul spoke of Epaphras as "our dear fellow servant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ." He had a burden for lost souls, a message of the power of Jesus to save, and the care of the church as his responsibility. My, what an influence a faithful minister has upon men in a time like this when there are so many things that invite disloyalty and unfaithfulness.

On the human side of his nature, the minister deals with men on behalf of God, and on the spiritual side of his nature, he deals with God on behalf of men. "All things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Christ Jesus, and hath given to us (the ministers) the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation," 2 Corinthians 5:18, 19.

The minister is God's ambassador of good will to man. It is not God's will that any perish but that all men should come to God repenting. That is good news, for the penitent soul is saved through faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. This is the basis on which the ambassador may bring men into their right relationship with God. "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." The Lord has not sent angels to preach and minister the Word to men; He has called men of like passions as yourself. When God's messenger preached the power of Jesus' name to the people at the house of Cornelius, the people would have worshiped him, but Peter said, "Stand up: I myself am a man." So the minister is, first of all, a human being. He is a God-made minister. He must be a faithful minister, or he will lose his reward and cause men to lose their way and slip down into the pit.

**NOW, LET US CONSIDER** the vocation of the minister. Let us hear God's Word on this matter. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath

### **His Call**

ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions

# THE

saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace," 2 Timothy 1:7-9. Not only is the minister's vocation a holy calling but it is also a heavenly calling. "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus: Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house," Hebrews 3:1, 2.

The minister is called and anointed of God to preach, teach, and minister the Word of God to suffering, dying human souls. In Matthew 28:19 Jesus said, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Paul testified in 1 Corinthians 1:17, "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect." "My speech," said Paul, "and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power," 1 Corinthians 2:4. The Word of God possesses a character-building influence. The beloved Apostle admonished "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace to the hearers," Ephesians 4:29.

God-called, Holy-Ghost-anointed preaching is God's method of bringing a spiritual awakening to the world. The Church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men who have studied to show themselves approved unto God, men whom the Holy Ghost can use, and men of prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but men. He does not come on machinery, but men. He does not anoint plans, but men. The preacher either makes or mars the message from God to men. He is the golden pipe through which the Holy Spirit is to flow. The pipe must not only be golden, but also flawless and open so that the oil may have an unhindered flow.

It has been said by a prince of preachers, "The man makes the preacher, but God makes the man." One has said, "It takes about twenty years to make a sermon, because it takes about twenty years to make the man." Preaching is not the performance of an hour, but it is the overflow of a life. The sermon is full of life, because the preacher is full of life. The gospel of Christ does not move by popular vote; it can move only as the men who have charge of it move. The sermon cannot rise in its life-giving flow above the preacher. Everything depends on the spiritual character of the servant of God. He is to bear the message of God to men; therefore, it is imperative that he be a student of the Bible.

**THE BURDEN** of the minister's message is "preaching the Word." He is exhorted to be instant in season and out of season, to reprove, rebuke, and exhort



# MINISTER

By H. D. WILLIAMS

with all long-suffering and doctrine. He must believe that the Word of God is life eternal to all who believe and receive; he must believe that God's Word is death and damnation to all who reject and deny. The minister must recognize that he is helping to prepare men for eternity. Mountains rearing their heads high into the clouds are among the grandest of earth's fortresses. Dictators, infidels, agnostics, God-haters and Christ-rejectors have arrayed themselves against God's Word, but the Word of God lives and abides forever, so we are told in 1 Peter 1:24, 25a, "For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever." His words are imperishable. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

His words are gracious. When Jesus stood up in the synagogue at Nazareth and read a portion of the prophet's message concerning Himself, all who heard Him bare Him witness and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. It was He who said, "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life," John 6:63. It is God's Word that tells men of the impending judgments against sin. Jesus said, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day," John 12:48.

The burden of preaching, teaching, and ministering the Word of God has been committed to the responsibility of faithful men. The ministry of those earlier followers of Jesus Christ is a real challenge to us of today. They went forth and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the Word with signs following. It is my firm opinion that if the Word of God is preached in its fullness under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, believed, and practiced that there will be signs and wonders wrought by the power of God. If we preach the power of God's Word, we must expect results; we must not limit that power. We have the same gospel that in the hands of Paul electrified men's lives and changed their courses of living. It is the burden of the minister to believe and preach the Word. Those who hear the Word of God preached must believe and receive the benefits.

Sin demands a message from the preacher; sorrow demands a message from the preacher. All effective preaching must be Christ-centered and motivated with a heart

full of compassion for suffering, dying souls.

THE MINISTER must die. There is no truth more familiar to him than this. On various occasions, he has knelt at the bedside and given to the dying words of comfort as they crossed over the river into the Promised

Land. Why, then, is he not always zealously affected for the salvation of the lost? Why does he not always exemplify the true Shepherd's tender care for the flock? The hour of final separation from all that is earthly will come sooner or later to arrest the man of humble occupation. When the iron-nerved hand takes hold upon his heartstrings and when he bows to the common leveler, what will sustain his departing spirit? Will the record reveal that he loved this present world or that he perverted the Word of God to gain himself a name? Will a retrospect of his ministry console him? Very definitely it will if he has been a faithful minister of Jesus Christ.

The foundation of his hope will be examined with thoroughness. The passions that have dominated his life, his attitude toward his prayer life, his family, his fellow ministers, his church, and his call to the sacred office will be reviewed as he closes the books of his earthly ministry and settles the final and all-important question: "Am I or am I not a follower of the Lamb?" The eye of the good man of God can almost see the recording angel holding the scroll bearing on its flaming pages the deeds of the summoned spirit and the forthcoming words of welcome, "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of our Lord." Around him mingle the



angels of light. Then comes *the day* for which all other days were made; as the minister cries out, "O my soul, hast thou fought a good fight and kept the faith? Hast the Word of God been as a burning fire shut up in my bones? Hast thou conducted others through tears and prayers up to heaven's gate? Have none perished through my negligence and love of ease and fear of men? Canst thou meet the Judge of all and appeal to Him that none have stumbled into the world of woe because of thy bad example—formality of service, vainglory, and ambition? Hast thou no accusers there who will testify, 'You saw me on the way to hell and held your peace; you knew me to be thoughtless; yet, you did not warn me; you knew me to be presumptuous; yet, you did not rebuke me; you knew me to be entangled in the masses of error and vicious indulgence; yet, you did not warn me.'"

Now the time of his departure has come; heaven opens. The tears he shed "between the porch and the altar," his fearless movements between the living and the dead, the wrestling agony of his devotions, his sincere love for the truth of God, and his unfailing efforts in the work of the Lord prepare him to shine above the brightness of the firmament and to receive the greetings of the Lord Himself as he enters into the bliss of heaven, where he shall enjoy the promised crown, the promised throne, and the welcome and approval of his Lord and King.



### IS IT WORTH IT?

(Continued from page 3)

For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting," Galatians 6:7, 8. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord," Romans 6:23.

In a dream last night I saw saints of God coming forth from bursting graves going up to meet their Saviour in the air. It was very beautiful, but where will you be when the rapture does take place? Your life in sin is not worth it. Your life without Christ is not worth it. Your life without the peace and joy of God is not worth it.

Give your life to Jesus Christ right now. Don't put it off any longer. Tomorrow will be too late.



### OLD MINISTERS DON'T DIE—THEY JUST FADE AWAY

(Continued from page 6)

countries and colonies belonging to the five main continents and Australia. At the time of this writing, I am seated on the roof of the Church of God Missions Headquarters in the little town of Bethlehem. The building is made of hewn limestone and has walls about four feet thick. The roof, covering an area of about 2,500 square feet, is laid also with hewn stones about four inches thick and of varying shapes and sizes up to three or four feet square. This heavy superstructure is supported by a series of thick walls or interior partitions and domes made of stone and arched at right angles for strength.

The Nativity Church, built over the site where it is said Christ was born and laid in a manger, is in plain view a block away. This is January 6, Christmas Eve, according

to the Orthodox Eastern Calendar, and thousands of people are gathered in Bethlehem for the purpose of celebrating the Saviour's birth. In a later article, I hope to describe in detail my experiences in the Holy Land and other countries, including Germany, where I spent twelve wonderful days with Brother and Sister Lauster and our other fine German folk. Since I have digressed from the subject of aged ministers, kindly permit me to take this means of thanking our good members and friends in California who have made possible this trip through their contributions. It is next to impossible for me to write a personal letter to each of them.

Some people might think that a sixty-one-year-old man starting out on a trip like this, with nothing to rely upon but his faith in God, was lacking in wisdom or intelligence. But, let me ask: Apart from faith, what more does one need? The lack of faith is all that one need worry about. On the first leg of my present journey, I had with me none other than Dr. J. O. Kinnaman, noted Bible archaeologist, who was approaching his eighty-eighth birthday and was still going strong for the Lord. Then, while visiting in London, England, I met my good friend, Ben Griffiths, pastor of Peniel Chapel, one of the largest Pentecostal churches in England. Brother Griffiths, who is eighty-five years old, organized the church forty-three years ago, and he has been serving as pastor ever since. Going about his pastoral work, he rides a bicycle—the same one he had in the beginning of his ministry. When it breaks down, he gets it fixed and rides along as usual. He prefers to use the bike instead of a car so that he will have more money to spend on missions. At one time, Peniel supported as many as eighty-three missionaries.

Some people's earthly pilgrimage may be likened to a jet plane that goes streaking across the skies at the dizzy speed of sound, yet leaving nothing behind it but a trail of smoke that soon vanishes through thin air. When the time will have arrived for me to make my final bow and the good Man upstairs drops the curtain, may God grant that I shall have left behind me something more real and tangible than a trail of smoke and a dying sound that soon become a part of the silent, invisible domain.

In referring again to our text, "Old Ministers Don't Die; They Just Fade Away," the same thing may be said of all true Christians whether they be ministers or laymen. "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them," Revelation 14:13.



### DELIVERANCE OR DESTRUCTION

(Continued from page 7)

age of sin and must be brought back into relationship with God, which can be done only by the blood of Jesus being applied to the hearts of man and woman. Praise God for genuine deliverance from sin through the blood of Jesus! Yes, the dear Lamb of God paid the full price, all that justice demanded, on the cruel cross of Calvary. But, dear friends, Jesus has only hands, feet, a tongue, and a body with which to work—you and I. We should consecrate ourselves to His service and allow Him to use our entire beings in the ministry of deliverance of the lost, needy souls of our day. The Church (all born-again

children of God), His own body, is the only agency the Lord Jesus has on earth through which the enabling power of the Holy Ghost can work for the deliverance of humanity.

**FRIENDS, THIS CHALLENGE** is facing the Church of the living God today. It is just as urgent and vitally necessary today as it was when Esther responded to the task or challenge given her. With such a great task, what will our answer be? How will we meet it? We are responsible to God and to those in bondage of sin or affliction. Will we meet it wholeheartedly, earnestly consecrating our entire beings to God as instruments of the Holy Ghost, or will we just go along at ease in Zion? If we choose to go along at ease, it will be woe unto us, because the prophet Amos said "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion." If we are to be a means of deliverance to those in bondage, we must awake and consecrate ourselves fully to the task before us. Indeed, we must have wholehearted cooperation of the entire body of Christ to accomplish the task committed to us. There-

fore, Church of God people, let us awake and arise to meet the challenge before us with full consecration and surrender of our selves to God. Then and only then can we see souls delivered from the devil's snare.

Jesus is coming soon. What will happen, then? If we have shirked our duty or shifted our responsibility onto someone else's shoulders, even if we scarcely be saved ourselves, our reward for works will be forever lost. People of God, awake; hasten, O sluggard, to the field, for the harvest is ripe and even perishing. Lift up your eyes and look to Jesus; He will reveal some work to you.

I pray that these few scattering remarks will be the means by which the Spirit of Almighty God will awaken and arouse many sleepers to the dire need of laborers in the Master's field today. Brother, Pastors, let's work while it is day, for the night is almost on us, when no man can work. What we do for Jesus and souls, we must do very quickly. God grant that we shall rise and meet with holy boldness the challenge facing every born-again Christian. May God bless you is our prayer. Amen.

### GOD'S MYSTERY

(Continued from page 5)

tions that life offers—turn, twist, and misrepresent the precious Word of God, my soul burns within, my mind is alarmed, and I have to cry aloud for the One who loved me so, Blessed be God forever!

There are a lot of good people ready to meet the Lord who aren't called by the Church of God name but who are walking in all the light they have seen. Jesus said in John 12:35b, "Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you." 2 Timothy 3:16, 17, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." When we see that God's Word says a thing, we are not justified without accepting it, too.

Jesus Christ died, arose, and ascended to the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19; Acts 7:55). Therefore, He left the Word to instruct and teach us how to get to heaven. In Psalm 119:105 David said, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." In John 8:32 Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Isn't the Word of God wonderful? John 12:48, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him; the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." Friend, is this not binding?

**IN MATTHEW 16:18, 19a,** Jesus said, "And I say unto thee, That

thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven." Jesus was referring directly to Himself as "This rock," and He placed the care of the Church in the hands of man, Peter, to whom He was talking. Matthew 21:42, "Jesus said unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?" In my mind I can see Jesus as He looked down through the telescope of time, and seeing things that shouldn't be in the Church, say, by the moving of His Spirit, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood," Acts 20:28.

Some might say that they are all God's churches. If they are, then why aren't they called by the name He chose and gave to the church? Many say that it had to be a church on earth and not in heaven for it to be placed in the care of men, when the Church gets to heaven, it will not need even the sun, moon, and stars, much less men to FEED and GOVERN it, for the Lord God will be the light (Revelation 22:5). Now the Church is in the hands of man, but then it will be in God's hands. Men, will your hands be clean when you meet God? Have you honestly done your duty for His Church?

Another evident fact that the Church is on earth is that Christ gave

instructions on how the trespassers should be dealt with in the Church (Matthew 18:15-17). He said, "... tell it to the church." How can you tell it to the Church if it is in heaven? I am sure that when one gets to heaven there will be no wanting to come back. Neither will two or three witnesses prefer charges for or against someone. 1 Timothy 3:5, "For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?" 1 Timothy 3:15, "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." Who needs to be told how to behave in heaven? In Acts 16:1-4 we find that Paul and Timothy went through the cities delivering the decrees—ordinances, laws, or rules—to the churches. This should convince anyone that there is a visible, organized Church on this earth called by the Father's name.

Saul was a favored and well-educated man who knew the law and kept it to the letter, but he hated the Church of God so much that he obtained letters from the high priest and elders to bind and persecute the saints (Acts 22:4-7; Acts 8:3). Listen to his cruel words in Acts 26:10-11, "Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities."



In Galatians 1:13 he said, "For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God and wasted it." However, as much as he hated the Church with a cruel zealotness, there was still something honest about Saul, who was later called Paul, for when he saw his wrong, he was willing to change and work just as hard for the Church as he had worked against it regardless of his favor among men or who liked it or who didn't. That is the kind of person the Lord can use—one who will please God in preference to anyone. No wonder he had so much power with the Lord that his clothes could be sent to sick and they would be healed. Acts 19:12, "So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them." Thank God for Paul!

EVIDENTLY, he was in a discussion with his fellow men when he hurled the reply that is found in Galatians 1:10-12, "For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." When one receives a revelation from God or His Word, he isn't easily moved. Paul became an apostle and an overseer of the very thing he had hated and fought so much. 1 Corinthians 1:1, 2, "Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours." Corinth was a little city in Greece.

Then, Paul had a membership on earth according to the will of God, did he not? In 2 Corinthians 11:28 he said also, "Besides those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches." Of course, he was an overseer. Acts 16:4, "And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem." Why was not Jerusalem their headquarters at this time? The decrees were the rules by which the

churches were to be governed. A church without rules would be like the army without government.

The Bible teaches government, whether we like it or not. 2 Peter 2:10, "But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities." Self-willed simply means to be controlled by our own selfish desires, and not by the government of the Bible. It has been said far too many times, "I'd belong to the Church, but so-and-so doesn't live up to its government." Can you find just one church where everybody lives up to your expectations and doesn't have to be dealt with in the church? If people had been thus, Jesus would not have given instructions on how to deal with the transgressor (Matthew 18:15-17). The early Church had the devil with whom to contend; for instance, there was Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11); Judas was also jealous over the money-bag (John 12:4-7), as well as many others. Jesus will separate the wheat from the tares and will present the perfect saints to the Father in glory. Ephesians 5:27, "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." 1 Peter 4:18, "If the righteous scarcely be saved." Friend, it will take all we can do. Let us not miss our soon coming King. "The Lord knoweth them that are his," 2 Timothy 2:19. Praise God!

Notice a few more things that Paul said in 1 Corinthians 12:28, "And God hath set some in the church, firstly apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers . . . helps, governments, diversities of tongues." God set them there; they are still there; and He will let whoever He sees fit use them. The question is: "Are we qualified for the job?" If so, the work will be done. (Read verses 4-10.) "But all these worketh that one and the self-same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will," 1 Corinthians 12:11. Friend, if the Church were only in heaven, there would be no need of these gifts, for there will be no sickness, death, or pain in heaven (Revelations 21:4). Glory to God! Not only that, but also Revelation 22:3, 4 says, "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in

their foreheads." Hallelujah! They will not be ashamed of His name.

We should count it a glorious privilege to have a God-given Bible name for the Church. Paul said in Galatians 1:8, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." We are criticized for the name, but who preaches it as strongly as the Bible? Jesus said in Matthew 10:22, "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved." Do you know what a namesake is? One who is named after another and in honor of another is called a namesake. There is scripture for the namesake—Revelation 2:3, "And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted." (Read Revelation 3:8; 2:13.) If we are members of His body, then why not inherit His name?

All those who have been saved or born again of the Spirit of God are brothers and sisters in Christ (Matthew 12:50). 1 Corinthians 12:13, 14, "For by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body." We become members of the spiritual body when we repent and become Christians (Acts 3:19; Luke 13:3), but we join the earthly church by sacred vows, as a man and wife are joined together. Ephesians 5:32, "This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." Then we receive the right hand of fellowship, as Paul did in Galatians 2:9, "And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision." This act was performed on earth.

In Ephesians 3:15 Paul said, "Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named." Surely there is a Biblical name for the Church. Friends, I am not trying to un-Christianize anyone, but I can say that there is a blessing in accepting God's Word. May I say to you, as Paul said in Ephesians 6:18, 19, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; and for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel." I have written this in the fear of God, and may the Lord bless every reader.

### New Church Structure in Middletown, Ohio

The Church of God in Middletown, Ohio, was organized in 1920. J. D. Wilson was pastor of the church for twenty-two years. Subsequent pastors have been M. J. Headley, H. R. Corley, John L. Stephens, and the present pastor, D. A. Biggs. Brother Biggs accepted the pastorate on August 28, 1947. At the time he became pastor, the average Sunday School attendance was 172. The church has grown until today the average Sunday School attendance is 422.

The beautiful church structure on the cover of this week's Evangel was built at a cost of \$136,000. It is a magnificent edifice with an auditorium seating 540. The baptistry is of ceramic tile and has a large oil fresco for the background. The platform, aisles, and vestry are carpeted. The church is



equipped with a new Baldwin piano and organ.

Besides the beautiful auditorium, the church has a nursery, a balcony, twenty Sunday School rooms, three offices, five rest rooms, a furnace room with three gas furnaces, and large penthouse fans on the roof that give a complete change of air every three minutes.

The church was dedicated on January 2, 1955. Houston R. Morehead, Assistant General Overseer, was the speaker on this occasion. An offering of \$5,500 was raised on dedication day. The indebtedness on the new building is only \$35,000. Pastor Biggs and the 344 members of the church are to be commended for their outstanding accomplishment.—Editor.



### Central Florida District Youth Project

With pep and enthusiasm the newest district in the Church of God in Florida carried out its first project. Although newly formed, the Central Florida District (formerly part of the Orlando District) brought Christmas cheer to our girls and boys in Sevierville by sending the largest single fruit gift ever given to our Children's Home. Our capable district pastor, Brother E. L. Newton, of Zellwood, and our district youth director, Brother Vernon E. Crosby, of Apopka, put forth many efforts as they worked together to plan, organize, and carry out this project. The other pastors and churches cooperating wholeheartedly include Brother T. Z. Bennett, of Mt. Dora; Brother Malory Smith, of Umatilla; Mrs. Frances L. Swalls, of Tavares; Brother Fletcher Phillips, of Winter Garden; Brother J. D. Channell, of Plymouth; and Brother F. R. Mickler, of Ferndale. Various pastors were able to get fruit donations from their local packing houses for this worthwhile purpose. Unable to get a truck to haul the fruit to Sevierville,

Brother Newton called the Children's Home and arranged to have its truck come after the fruit, the district paying the expenses. J. W. Osborn, Jr., and Ken Walker, son of R. R. Walker, the Superintendent of the Home, came with a truck after the fruit and arrived on Monday before Christmas. Brother Newton and Brother Crosby accompanied the truck on Tuesday as it went to the different packing houses to pick up the fruit which had been so graciously donated. Boxes and bags of oranges, grapefruit, and tangerines, as well as cans of fresh juice, soon had the truck so loaded that when it was inspected for weight some of the juice had to be taken off to be shipped later. The district was proud to be able to make Christmas happier for our boys and girls by sending this fruit to them. Also, the pastors and churches of the district want to express their appreciation for the wonderful leadership of their district pastor, Brother Newton, and for the work and time he put forth in order for this project to be carried out.—Ora Jean Wiggins, Reporter.

CHILDERSBURG, Ala.—Acts 2:16, 17, "But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams." Praise our God, we are seeing that scripture fulfilled at our church! Within the last two months, we have seen 15 happy persons filled with the Holy Ghost, 14 saved, 9 sanctified, and 10 added to the church. You are probably saying, "What a wonderful revival!" But it happened in our midweek and week-end services, and we give God all the honor and praise for His blessings. We are certain it is through our pastor's abundant wisdom and willingness for God's will to be done that our church is progressing and moving forward. We are also witnessing some wonderful healings. A few weeks ago, a young man was seriously injured in an automobile accident that claimed the life of his companion. The doctors had given this young man up to die when our pastor, Brother Barrett, with all his faith in God, asked a divine touch from heaven. The young man opened his eyes, and from that instant, he began to improve. Soon he was able to leave the hospital. Last Saturday night, leaning heavily on his crutches, he made his way to the altar for prayer for his body. After he was anointed and prayed for by Brother Barrett and a number of others, he rose to his feet, proclaimed the wonderful healing power of God, laid his crutches aside, and went on his way rejoicing. Now he is enjoying both his new-found health and new-found joy in serving the Lord. A sister was healed of kidney poisoning, and a brother who had an abscessed tooth was healed the moment he was prayed for. Yes, God is really doing things at Childersburg.

We have a building program going on. We are completing Sunday School rooms, and we plan to install rest rooms in the near future. We have bought new furniture for the parsonage. In order to finance this, the Sunday School has begun the drive, which is proving very profitable, and every class, along with its teacher, is doing its best. Our Sunday School and Y.P.E. are moving forward under the guidance of their worthy superintendents and co-workers. We are very proud of our host of young people. They have an abundant source of talent which is a great blessing to our church. Brother and Sister Barrett have a lot of wisdom on how to encourage our young people, and they have been setting forth some very good teachings which are proving profitable and a blessing to them, as well as to the entire church. We do appreciate them very much, and we are expecting much greater things for our church in the future.—Catherine Isbell, Reporter.

# COURT of PRAISE

**LARGO, Fla.**—One Sunday night in December, 1954, my little two-year-old girl had a very bad attack of asthma. She was coughing almost every breath. I prayed, and praise the blessed name of Jesus, she was healed! Later, my baby had such a fever that her spine would almost burn me when I touched her, but, praise our wonderful God, He touched her body and the fever left! I knew God healed her, because she was given nothing at all. Oh, praise God, I could never tell of the many times He has healed my family. Jesus means everything to me. Just after I had received the precious Holy Ghost, every time I started to pray I would have such a bad headache that I could hardly say a word. One day I asked the Lord to remove the headache because I knew it was of the devil. I feel we should pray three times a day. A warm feeling in the shape of a big hand came on one side of my head and the pain was gone. God can do anything if we ask in simple faith.—Mrs. James Herrin.

**FAYETTEVILLE, N. C.**—I praise the wonderful name of Jesus for a miracle that He performed in my life. I was attending a revival at the Church of God on "C" and Adams Street in Fayetteville, North Carolina, which Brother Billy Franklin, of Birmingham, Alabama, was conducting. As far back as I can remember, I had been tormented by some strange power which within recent months I had come to recognize as demons. I had tried several times to serve the Lord but it was in vain. I would try to pray and seek the Lord, but each time the demons would choke me until I couldn't utter a word. The first night I attended the revival, the Holy Ghost gave a message and the interpretation was given that there was a young woman in the congregation who needed deliverance. I knew the message was for me. I tried to get up from my seat and go to the altar, but I couldn't move. I was bound. Brother Franklin and Brother Daniels, the pastor, came back and helped me to the altar. They prayed earnestly for my deliverance, but it didn't come that night. The evangelist and some of the church members fasted the next day for me, and that night I went back to the altar for prayer. It was this night that those ugly, tormenting powers were rebuked in the name of Jesus and I was set free—free, for the first time in my life. I shall always thank and praise God for what He has done for me.—A friend in Christ. Attested by J. H. Daniels, Pastor.

**WHITE SPRINGS, Fla.**—On December 6, 1953, I was taken to the hospital in Valdosta, Georgia, for an operation. When the doctor operated, he found that I was in a serious condition with gallstones, yellow jaundice, and cancer which had almost completely destroyed my pancreas. He

only sutured the incision and sent me back to my room to die. He told my family that I couldn't possibly live over two weeks unless the higher Power from above performed a miracle. Oh, thank God for His power. It is the only thing that kept me here. His healing power is real, praise His name! He withered that cancer and healed me. The devil was still on his job and tempted me from time to time. Finally, about the first week in November, 1954, he really afflicted me again. I suffered horribly. Brother A. C. McKaig was in a revival at the Happyville Church of God. I saw miracles performed there night after night. When I was prayed for, I felt the healing virtue go through my body. I have felt like a new person ever since. Praise the Lord for His healing power! Please pray for me that God will use me for His glory.—Edna Moody. Attested by C. D. Henry and Joseph H. McCall, Pastor.

**WHITE SPRINGS, Fla.**—On October 2 I went to a doctor in Jasper for an examination and treatment for a growth under my right eye that had been bothering me for about six or eight weeks. I thought the growth was a wart, but when he examined it he told me it might be a skin cancer, or it could be a wart. So, right away he wanted to cut it out. He told me if it were a case of his he surely would want it off his eye. So the next day, October 3, my wife and daughters went with me to the Happyville Church of God, where a revival was in progress. I went up for prayer, and when the evangelist laid his hands on me and prayed, I felt the great healing power of God that I had never felt before. Within two days this growth began to dry up; in a few days it came off, and in a few more days it was completely well. I do praise God for His great healing, saving, and keeping power. I ask the prayers of everyone who reads this testimony to pray that I shall always please God and be in the paths of righteousness.—Eddie Denmark. Attested by C. D. Henry and Joseph H. McCall, Pastor.

**MILLVILLE, N. J.**—I thank God that Jesus is able to heal today the same as He did when He walked the shores of Galilee. My baby was born with a weak lining in his stomach and an abscess on his nose by the corner of his eye. His eye ran all the time and because of the lining being weak he could keep very little milk in his stomach. When he was three weeks old, I had him prayed for by our pastor, Sister Amy Hanley, and he got complete healing in his stomach. The next time I took him to church, I had his eye prayed for, and God healed him. I

also have another boy that had pneumonia when he was thirteen or fourteen months old. He had a high fever from Saturday until Thursday. It seemed as if we could not get our prayer answered. Our pastor came and prayed for him, my husband and I prayed, and the whole church prayed. I thank God that sometime during the night, God heard our cry and answered prayer. The boy is nearly three years old now. Praise His holy name.—Mrs. Anthony Ferrigno. Attested by A. M. Hanley, Pastor.

**ALMA, Ga.**—I'm praising God for His mighty healing power. This past summer I had a terrible skin trouble which the doctor called dermatitis. It was all swollen and had a high temperature; it was itching and burning, and I could not sleep. I was up all night trying to pray and get ease. I knew that if I didn't get relief somehow I could not live much longer. My husband suggested that we get a doctor, but I wanted to give God a chance. At five o'clock in the morning my husband called one of the sisters of the church and asked her to pray for me. She called the pastor and his wife, and three other sisters. They came and prayed for me, and God healed me instantly. My temperature began to go down and in a few minutes I was better. God did perform a miracle that morning. My pastor and his wife, Brother and Sister Duck, and the other sisters praised God for the victory. I give God the praise for everything, and I love Him because He still heals with His sweet power. He has healed my husband of asthma. Bless His sweet name. I praise Him for saving me, sanctifying me, and filling me with the sweet Holy Ghost. I can never praise Him enough for what He has done for me.—Sister Fannie Crosby. Attested by H. M. Duck, Pastor.

**EDENTON, N. C.**—I thank God for the miracle He performed for me when I was healed of cancer of the spine. I had been having trouble with my back for a long time. The doctor sent me to the Norfolk, Virginia, Hospital, where I stayed three weeks. It helped me for a short while. My husband spent everything he could get for doctor and hospital bills. One day a terrible pain struck me in my back, and I could not get up. The doctor came and gave me medicine. It eased me for a while, but then the pain came back. The doctor came three or four times a day for four weeks. I knew I was a Christian, and I also knew God could heal me. I did not want to go back to the hospital. I prayed for God to heal me, but I got no better. On Friday I was in so much pain that my neighbor called my doctor to come at once. When he got there, he told me I would have to go back to the hospital, for he had done all he could. I had turned my head and was looking over my dresses when I saw



the face of a dear sister in the Lord come before me. She was saying, "God will heal you." I looked back at the doctor and said, "I want you to tell me what's wrong with me." Before he could answer I said, "I have cancer, don't I?" He said, "Yes, you have." I said, "Doctor, please give me a few more days before I go." I didn't tell him, but I knew if I could get Sister Mary Hannah—whose face I had seen—to come pray for me, God would heal me. When she came in my room, she had on the same dress I saw when the doctor was talking to me. She and some of the church people prayed for me, and God healed me completely. The next day my doctor called me to his office, since this was the day I was supposed to go to the hospital. When I got there, he looked at my back and said, "I don't understand, but something has happened!" I said, "I do, Doctor; God has healed me." He said, "Well, it will come back." I said, "No, Doctor. When God does anything, He does it well. It won't come back." I have been working every day since and have not felt that pain. I am giving God all the glory, for what is impossible with man is possible with Him. I hope this will help someone to have more faith, and pray for me to do the best I can for God.—Mrs. Elizabeth Hawkins. Attested by Mary Hannah.

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**LONE OAK, Tenn.**—I praise my wonderful Saviour for His goodness and mercy to me. I have been a Christian for over twenty years, and the longer I serve Him, the sweeter the way grows. He has been so good to me. I praise Him for leading me to the Church of God when I was hungry to attend church. I went to the Lone Oak Church of God, where I have been attending now for over six months, although I am a member of another faith. I thank God for the Church of God and for what it teaches and practices. A few months ago, a large sore came on my right cheek. Since cancer runs in my family and a sister died with a cancer that had eaten her face almost up, I knew pretty well what it was. I went to a doctor in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He told me I had a cancer and must have surgery. I left his office and went to another doctor who told me the same story but added that unless I underwent surgery immediately that the dreaded disease would eat my face off. At the close of the service the following Sunday night, I told the church what the doctors had told me and asked them to anoint my face and pray for me. When they anointed me and prayed, I felt that cancer tremble. Praise God, it was dying. In a few days the place was completely healed, and the scar is so faint that it is hard to see. I shall never get through praising my Saviour, and I thank Him for the Lone Oak Church of God, where God is blessing and healing. Healing is as real as salvation, and we're serving the same Christ who healed the woman who had had the issue of blood for twelve years. There is nothing too big or too hard for Him.—Jim Miller. Attested by Hershel Brock, Pastor.



#### GRAVES

Mr. Harvey C. Graves departed this life on November 23, 1954, at the age of 68. A chair is vacant in our home which cannot be filled, but we hope to meet again some day where sickness and sorrow are unknown. He leaves a wife, Myrtle Graves; two daughters, Ara Bates and Jessie Mangrum; and a son, Harvey Felix. Rev. R. E. Nuzum conducted the funeral.—Mrs. Myrtle Graves.

#### BELLAH

The Reverend Connie G. Bellah, of Wenatchee, Washington, departed this life on November 6, 1954 in the service of his Master, whom he loved. Brother Bellah is survived by his wife, Bessie May Bellah; four daughters and two sons—Evelene Cheaney, of Aransas Pass, Texas; Minnie May Harris, of Rock Island, Washington; Bertha Lee Burleson and Nellie Marks, of Wenatchee; Gene, who is stationed with the Air Force at San Antonio, Texas; and Kenneth, of Wenatchee; and fourteen grandchildren. Brother Bellah had been a member of the Church of God for approximately twenty-nine years and had been preaching for about seventeen years. He dearly loved the Church, which he gave his life for while building the new work in Wenatchee. He had pastored churches in Oklahoma prior to his coming to Washington. The writer had been closely associated with him for several of his years in Washington and loved him much, as well as his fine family. The funeral was conducted in the Lush Funeral Chapel in Wenatchee by B. F. Sherbahn, who was assisted by D. G. Homner, the state overseer of Washington and Oregon. A number of other ministers from the State were there, including Otis Rushing, who was the soloist. Brother Bellah will be greatly missed, but we know he has gone on to reap his reward which he worked for so faithfully.—B. F. Sherbahn.

#### SIMPSON

Brother Pervie Simpson departed this life October 21, 1954. He was a loyal member and trustee of the Middle Valley, Tennessee, Church of God. He made many sacrifices to promote the general interest of the church. He was the son of the late Reverend Z. D. Simpson, of Birmingham, Alabama. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mamie Simpson, who is the daughter of the Reverend and Mrs. T. A. Richard; two children, Pervie Simpson, Jr., and Mrs. Jean Williams; and two grandchildren. He was loved by all who knew him. The funeral was conducted by his pastor, D. T. Pemberton; Brother T. L. Phillips, and Brother R. E. Blackwood. The church feels a great loss in his death.—T. L. Phillips, District Overseer.

#### ROUSEY

Mrs. Carrie Lee Scarboro Rousey, a very devoted member of the Royston, Georgia, Church of God, departed this life to be with Jesus on Tuesday, January 11, 1955. She left to mourn her passing her husband, two daughters, one son, eight grandchildren, and her parents. Our loss is heaven's gain. Her everyday life was a living testimony for Jesus.—Mrs. O. B. Almond.

#### FARWELL

William Berry Farwell passed to his reward on December 20, 1954, at the advanced age of 82 years. The Church of God at Augusta, Maine, has suffered a great loss, but heaven has gained. We sorrow not as those who have no hope. Brother Farwell is survived by two daughters—Mrs. J. W. Devers and Mrs. Olive Carter, both of Augusta; a granddaughter, Mrs. W. D. Dolle, of Chico, California; and several nieces and nephews. The funeral service was conducted by Franklin Scott, his pastor.—Lida B. Ricker.

#### POWELL

Sister Roxie Lucinda Powell, age 63, departed this life December 17, 1954. She was the wife of the late Reverend Lemuel H. Powell, who departed this life on February 20, 1954. Sister Powell was a faithful member of the Winnsboro Church of God, where her funeral was conducted by the pastor, E. D. Johnson, and the Reverend W. R. Craven, of Clinton, South Carolina. She made her home with her daughter and faithful son-in-law, Brother and Sister Paul Boone. Left behind are four daughters, two sons, three brothers, two sisters, and eleven grandchildren. She was a faithful wife, loving mother, and her Christian life was a testimony that will always be remembered by neighbors and friends who knew her.—Mrs. J. W. Brazilel.

#### WEIL

Willie N. Weil, a faithful member of the Church of God in Williston, Florida, went home to be with Jesus December 26, 1954, at the age of 73. He left to mourn his passing two sons, two daughters, eleven grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by his pastor, E. Ray Kirk.—His daughter who loved him dearly, Josie M. Jerree.

#### JAMISON

The Reverend Enoch Jamison, born February, 1883, in Clay County, North Carolina, departed this life on January 21, 1955, at his home in Gastonia, North Carolina. His funeral was conducted at the South Gastonia Church of God by Brother Ray Collins, the pastor, who was assisted by Brother Frank Darnell. His body was laid to rest in the family cemetery. Brother Jamison was a faithful member and minister of the Church of God for more than forty years and was retired at the time of his death. He died in the faith trusting God until the end. He left to mourn his death his faithful wife, Wilma Jamison; one son; two daughters; five grandchildren; three brothers; and a host of relatives and friends. He will be missed by all who knew him, but our loss is heaven's gain.—M. R. Snyder.

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